

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DIWY-01 VO-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 PER-01 MMO-01 OC-06

CCO-00 EUR-12 /093 W

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R 191017Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5274

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USUN NEW YORK 495

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2571

USIA FOR BRESCIA , INA

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: APER, PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: SRI LANKA SEEKS TO RESTRICT  
OUTSIDE HELP FOR RESIDENT EMBASSIES DURING CONFERENCE

REF: A. COLOMBO 2560; B. USIA 21928

1. SUMMARY: MDFA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OF DECISION,  
REPORTEDLY AT PRIME MINISTER LEVEL, TO LIMIT OUTSIDE  
ASSISTANCE TO NON-NAM EMBASSIES HERE TO TWO PERSONS  
DURING CONFERENCE. WE ARE SEEKING TO CLARIFY THAT THIS  
MEANS TWO DIPLOMATIC OFFICER (HINES AND KATZEN) AND  
DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPPORT PERSONNEL(TWO COMMUNICATORS  
AND ONE SECRETARY). CASE OF USIA OFFICER ROBERT MERIAN  
FROM NEW DELHI IS FOR NOW LEFT UP IN AIR PENDING MDFA  
OR HIGHER DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 14 DCM WAS SUMMONED TO MDFA BY BALASUBRAMANIAM,  
DIRECTOR, WEST DIVISION, ON FEW MINUTES NOTICE. BALASUBRAMANIAM SHAID  
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HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM EMBASSY IT

COULD HAVE NO MORE THAN TWO ADDITIONAL PERSONS IN COLOMBO TO ASSIST RESIDENT STAFF DURING NAC. DCM SAID HE ASSUMED THIS RELATED TO DIPLOMATIC OFFIER PERSONNEL, I.E., THOSE WHO WOULD BE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST IF PERMANENTLY STATIONED HERE. BALASUBRAMANIAM SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT COVER THIS POINT. IT WAS AGREED THAT EMBASSY WOULD SUBMIT A WRITTEN LIST OF THOSE PERSONS FOR WHOM WE EITHER ALREADY HAD OR WOULD IN NEXT DAY OR SO SUBMIT FORMAL THIRD PERSON NOTES REQUESTING ENTRY VISAS, FOR REVIEW OF OUR PLANS BY GSL.

3. LETTER WHEN SUBMITTED ON JULY 15 LISTED TWO SUBSTANTIVE DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, HINES AND KATZEN, IN SECOND CATEGORY, WE LISTED AS SUPPORT STAFF COMMUNICATORS WILLIAM BELK AND JOHNNIE W. 7-69, AND SECRETARY MARILYN J. ANDERSON. THIRD CATEGORY WAS THAT OF INFORMATION, PRESS AND RADIO PERSONNEL. SINCE PRESS ACCREDITATION IS HANDLED ELSEWHERE IN GSL FOR CONFERENCE, WE LISTED ONLY ROBERT MERIAN, SAYING THAT USIS HAD ASKED FOR PRESS ACCREDITATION FOR SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS (UNNAMED) OF VOA AND OTHER AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

2. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL A, SUBJECT WAS RAISED AGAIN ON JULY 15 BY W.T. JAYASINGHE, SECRETARY OF MDFA, DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL. AGAIN, ON JULY 19 SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR WITH ARTHUR BASNAYAKE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MDFA. IN BOTH CASES, ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE EMBASSY'S LETTER WERE LEFT. BASNAYAKE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION LAST WEEK THAT OUTSIDE PERSONNEL FOR EMBASSIES OF COUNTRIES NOT MEMBERS OF NAM BE LIMITED TO TWO PERSONS. AMBASSADOR AGAIN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION THAT THIS MEANT TWO DIPLOMATIC OFFICER, AND BASNAYAKE SAID THIS WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID THAT GSL WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOME EMBASSIES (READ USSR) TO BRING IN AS MANY AS 40 TO 50 EXTRA PEOPLE, AND THIS HAD LED TO PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION.

5. BASNAYAKE MADE IT CLEAR WE WOULD BE ALL RIGHT ON HINES (WHO IS ALREADY HERE) AND KATZEN, DID NOT SEEM TO THINK THE SUPPORT PERSONNEL POSED A PROBLEM, BUT THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT MAYBE LINE MIGHT BE DRAWN ON MERIAN. BALL IS CLEARLY NOW IN MDFA COURT, AND WE CAN ONLY AWAIT DECISION WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN AT PRIME MINISTER LEVEL.

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT GIVEN THIS STATE OF PLAY EMBASSY HAS DECIDED NOT TO ASK FOR VISA FOR STANDBY TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BUT TO LIMIT SUPPORT PERSONNEL REQUESTS TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE. BALA-

SUBRAMANIAM MADE IT FAIRLY CLEAR THAT VISA WOULD NOT BE GRANTED TO ERIC WEAVER, NEA/EX, WHO HAD WISHED TO VISIT COLOMBO IN AUGUST IN COURSE OF SWING AROUND COUNTRIES FOR WHICH HE IS RESPONSIBLE. NOR WILL WE PROCESS ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST 25.EVEN IN CASE OF THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING VISAS FROM SRI LANKAN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, OR ELSEWHERE, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE TURNED AWAY AT AIRPORT DURING CONFERENCE PERIOD, PROBABLY WITHOUT THIS EMBASSY EVEN BEING INFORMED, IN CONFUSION SURROUNDING AIRPORT ACTIVITIES DURING THIS PERIOD.

7. FOR BRESCIA AND MERIAN: WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. SORRY FOR INCONVENIENCE.  
REED

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## Message Attributes

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